SANDWELL PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

March 2003

Approved by:

D Heath

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Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 5/03

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Date: Mar 5/03

SANDWELL PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role
The **primary** role of Sandwell Provincial Park is to protect natural and cultural features and values. The park contains a number of archaeological sites, petroglyphs and middens.

The park contains a long, sandy beach and forested upland on the north side of Gabriola Island facing the Strait of Georgia. A saltwater marsh on an adjacent property is a red-listed plant community with high ecological values.

Secondary Role
The **secondary** role of the park is to provide recreational opportunities associated with the natural values of the park. The park offers a variety of day use activities including picnicking, beach combing, swimming, strolling and nature viewing. A steep trail provides access for local residents and visitors to Gabriola Island down to the long sandy beach with an adjacent natural grass and marsh upland that is privately owned.

Known Management Issues	Response
Future development on adjacent private lands and impact on sensitive salt water marsh ecosystem which is not part of the park.	Discuss with Nanaimo Regional District protective zoning options and/or with private land owners on future acquisition/donation of salt water marsh lands for addition to park.
Poor trail access due to steep terrain may cause safety hazards.	Addition of salt water marsh lands would conserve a sensitive habitat and improve access to park.
Blowdowns from adjacent properties on ridge above park.	Discuss with neighbours strategies about minimizing impact on park as trees and debris fall into the park after wind storms.
Improved maintenance of park facilities required. Vandalism is a problem.	Promote local resident volunteer Park Watch program to help protect park's cultural and natural values.

Zoning
Natural Environment Zone includes forested upland and marine foreshore (approximately 84% of the park). The Special Feature Zone includes known archaeological sites, sensitive shoreline and intertidal habitat (approximately 16% of the park).

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☐	Contributes minimally (0.11% of overall ecosection representation) to the representation of the Southern Gulf Islands Ecosection, of which 5.6% is protected in the protected areas system. The marine foreshore (containing 9 hectares) protects the intertidal and marine habitats.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☐	CDFmm biogeoclimatic variant which is poorly represented (2.43%) in the system; Sandwell Park contributes only 0.04% of the overall representation of the CDFmm.
Special Feature	☒	Provides public access to a long sandy, gravel beach which provides habitat for migrating shorebirds.
Rare/Endangered Values	☐	Unknown
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☐	

Recreation

Representation backcountry	☐	
destination	☐	
travel corridor	☐	
local recreation	☒	Local residents and visitors to Gabriola Island visit park and enjoy the long gravel beach which provides a variety of day use recreation activities (e.g. swimming, beach combing, walking and nature appreciation).
Special Opportunities	☐	
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☐	

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☐	
Special Feature	☒	Shell middens and petroglyphs; First Nations burial site is located near park boundary.

Other Management Considerations

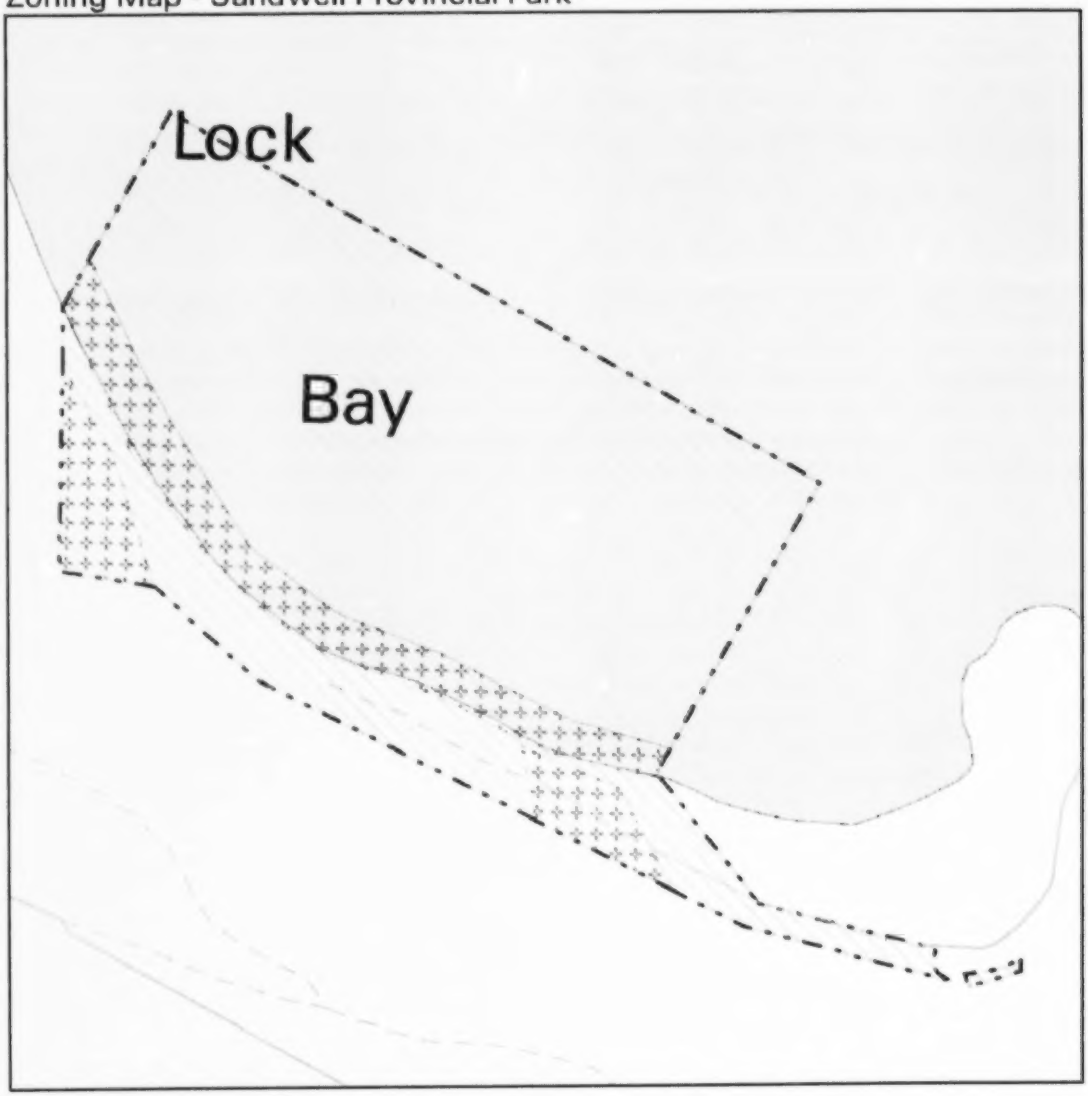
Other Designations	☐	

Relationship to other PAs	☐	
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☐	
Partnerships	☒	First Nations and Nanaimo Regional District
Vulnerability	☒	Vandalism and future development of surrounding lands.
Relationship to other Strategies	☒	Marine Protected Areas Strategy

Area: 12 hectares (3 ha of upland; 9 ha of foreshore)

Date of establishment: June 16, 1988

Zoning Map - Sandwell Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

Natural Environment
Special Feature
Protected Area Boundary

0 100
m

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